



Ashton-Kirk, Investigator

by John Thomas McIntyre (1871-1951)

Ashton-Kirk, who has solved so many mysteries, is himself something of a mystery even to those who know him best. Although young, wealthy, and of high social position, he is nevertheless an indefatigable worker in his chosen field. He smiles when he is called a detective; "No, only an investigator," he says. He has never courted notoriety; indeed, his life has been more or less secluded. Those who have found their way to Ashton-Kirk's door have been of many races and interests. Men of science have often been surprised to find him in touch with the latest discoveries; scholars searching among strange tongues and dialects, tattered scrolls and ancient tablets have been his frequent visitors. But among them come many who seek his help in solving problems in crime. "I'm more curious than some other fellows, that's all," is the way he accounts for himself. "If a puzzle is put in front of me I can't rest till I know the answer." His natural bent has always been to make plain the mysterious; each well-hidden step in the perpetration of a crime has always been for him an exciting lure; and to follow a thread, snarled by circumstances or by another intelligence has been, he admits, his chief delight.

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